

War's Toll Is 26 GIs Killed And 170 Wounded Every Day

SAIGON (UPI) — The price of war in Vietnam in 1967 was an average of approximately 26 Americans killed and 170 wounded every single day of the year. U.S. officials said today that as of Dec. 30 a total of 9,353 Americans were killed and 62,004 wounded in 1967.

The number of Americans killed during Christmas week increased despite the cease-fire proclaimed by both sides. U.S. spokesmen said 135 Americans were killed, 437 wounded and 878 missing in action last week, compared with 166 killed, 1,337 wounded and 366 missing in the previous week.

Figures were not available for Dec. 31, which fell on Sunday, the beginning of the next casualty week.

U.S. and allied countries said they killed 623 Communists last week, well below the 977 reported for the previous week. The allies suffered 37 killed and 47 wounded last week.

The figures released today did not include South Vietnamese casualties nor Communist dead

accounted for by Government troops.

Heaviest fighting for the Americans was along South Vietnam's northern coast and in U.S. Marine territory in the north of South Vietnam.

The bloody battlefields of 1967 accounted for well over half of the total American casualties through last week of 116,617 since 1961, including 15,997 killed, 93,742 wounded, of which 52,972 required hospitalization, and 878 missing. Casualties

since Dec. 30 sent the dead figure past 16,000. Official figures showed that U.S. military strength in Vietnam soared to an all-time high of 486,000, 8,000 higher than in the previous week and 14,000 higher than at any time in the Korean war.

Australia, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and New Zealand, had 60,000 men in Vietnam, unchanged from last week. U.S. officials estimated Communist strength in South Vietnam between 298,000 and 333,000.

COMMENTARY

The figure of 878 Americans missing in action through 30 December 1967 is an inclusive one, containing not only the 647 Americans listed as missing in action since 1 January 1961 but also 231 Americans officially recorded as captured and detained by Communist forces.

647	Missing
231	Captured
<hr/> 878	Total